

Letter from A.L. Massie to Charles J. Bell, September 11, 1907

Mauro, Cameron, Lewis & Massie, Counsellors at Law, COPY, 620 F Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. New York, Sept. 11, 1907. Charles J. Bell, Esq., c/o American Security & Trust Co., Pennsylvania Avenue, & 15th Street, Washington, D. C. My Dear Sir:—

President E. D. Easton of the American Graphophone Company has handed to me your letter of the 9th instant to him having annexed thereto letter of the 5th instant to yourself from Mr. Alexander Graham Bell, which letter has annexed thereto copies of letters of Aug. 28, 1907, from Mr. Louis Hicks to Mr. Bell and of Mr. Bell's reply to same under date of Sept. 25, 1907. Mr. Easton instructs me to advise you what it is all about.

Mr. Mauro, some years ago, took out a patent for an improvement in the production of disc sound-records, which patent was afterwards purchased by the American Graphophone Company. Mr. Mauro has recently succeeded in having this patent sustained by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, and we are now suing certain infringers, among others a concern for whom Mr. Louis Hicks is attorney. You can see at once that Mr. Hicks is endeavoring to avail himself of the reputation and special information possessed by Mr. Alexander Graham Bell, in order to help his (Hick's) clients and defeat our patent.

Mr. Mauro was satisfied that the Jones invention was novel. Without going into technicalities, it consisted of a judicious selection of a number of old steps, so as to constitute a new way of proceeding. In view of Mr. Mauro's opinion we do not believe that anything that Mr. Bell will say could injure our case; but it would enable the squirming defendants to continue the litigation and put us to some additional trouble besides taking up Mr. Bell's time needlessly.

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Yours Very truly, (Signed) A. L. Massie. PS I received a few days ago a letter from Mr. Mauro, who is now staying with his family at Cortina, in Austria. He says he is very enthusiastic about the place, and that he and all of his family are very much benefited by their sojourn.